

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10108 051010Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 PA-02 ITC-01 CTME-00 L-03 H-02 /111 W
-----074157 051122Z /15

R 050910Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8488

UNCLAS TOKYO 10108

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE LABOR LEADERS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. JUNE 2 EVENING EDITIONS OF ASAHI AND SANKEI GAVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO JUNE 1 MEETINGS OF TOP OFFICIALS OF FOUR JAPANESE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY, DEPUTY STR WOLFF AND EA DIRECTOR PLATT. STORIES, ALSO CARRIED BY KYODO WIRE SERVICE, PRESUMABLY BASED ON BRIEFING GIVEN JAPANESE PRESS CORPS IN WASHINGTON BY SOHYO SEC GEN TOMIZUKA.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS TOMIZUKA AND MEANY CONFIRMED THAT, AT INVITATION OF AFL-CIO, SOHYO WOULD SEND DELEGATION HEADED BY CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA TO WASHINGTON IN EARLY OCTOBER FOR ITS FIRST-EVER FORMAL ROUND OF TALKS WITH AFL-CIO. TOMIZUKA INDICATED THAT SOHYO PROPOSED TO DISCUSS STRIKE RIGHTS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND, IN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF JAPANESE FOR "WORKING TOO HARD," SOHYO'S EFFORTS TO RAISE JAPANESE LABOR STANDARDS BY WINNING FIVE DAY WEEK. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH MEANY, TOMIZUKA THOUGHT AFL-CIO WOULD RAISE BASIC RIGHTS OF WORKERS WORLD-WIDE AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS. TOMIZUKA ALSO SAID THAT SINCE MEANY UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO JAPAN THIS SUMMER,
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AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENT SHANKER WOULD REPRESENT HIM AT SOHYO CONVENTION IN JULY. TOMIZUKA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OCTOBER MEETING WOULD LEAD TO PERIODIC SCHEDULED EXCHANGES WITH AFL-CIO SIMILAR TO THOSE HELD BETWEEN DOMEI AND AFL-CIO OVER LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

3. DEPUTY STR WOLFF REPORTEDLY TOLD LABOR LEADERS THAT

GOJ SHOULD EXPAND ITS IMPORTS FROM U.S. BY REMOVING REMAINING BARRIERS IN ORDER TO CORRECT SERIOUS BILATERAL TRADE IMBALANCE. WOLFF ALSO STRONGLY URGED JAPAN TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PREPARING COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH WOULD INSURE SUCCESS OF CURRENT TOKYO ROUND AT MTN. EA COUNTRY DIRECTOR PLATT QUOTED AS SAYING U.S. CAREFULLY WATCHING BILATERAL TRADE FIGURE BECAUSE IF U.S. DEFICIT NOT REDUCED BY FALL, THERE WAS SERIOUS DANGER OF CONGRESS ENACTING PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION PRIOR TO MIDTERM ELECTION.

4. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING TOMIZUKA'S WASHINGTON VISIT WITH LABATT, BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSY' OFFICERS CONFIRMED THAT ON HIS RETURN TO JAPAN FROM U.S., TOMIZUKA WOULD VISIT EUROPE IN ORDER TO INVITE TUC AND DGB TO ATTEND SOHYO CONVENTION. BRITISH EMBOFF SAID TUC PLANNED TO DECLINE INVITATION AND TO SUGGEST INSTEAD A BILATERAL MEETING THIS FALL. FRG EMBOFF SAID DGB WOULD SEND "OBSERVER" TO SOHYO CONVENTION. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO10108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780234-0142
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780694/aaaaddgy.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f8286e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2484750
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE LABOR LEADERS VISIT TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, JA, AFL-CIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8286e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014